

PLAYS OF THE HOUR

[From Our New York Dramatic Correspondent.]

THAT much talked of and much derided drama by George Bernard Shaw, "Mrs. Warren's Profession," was produced recently at the Manhattan theater. Mr. Shaw says his play is perfectly moral, but the American public, let us hope, does not agree with him.

The play is a nuisance to decency in any form. It is dull, stupid and monotonous. It has not even the merit of consistency. It is false to all the canons of common sense and parades immorality in artificially bright habiliments that give urgent reasons why the police power of the state should be invoked for its suppression.

By vain sophistry and brazen disregard of the effect the play might readily have on susceptible members of any community Mr. Shaw attempts to prove that no subject is improper for public discussion.

For once the public is giving a questionable play the reception it deserves, that is, it is giving it no reception at all, in the affirmative sense, it is neglecting it in a wholesome manner that speaks well for its judgment.

The play is well acted; that cannot be denied. Mary Shaw appears in the leading role of Mrs. Warren. She is known favorably for her work in such of Ibsen's plays as "Ghosts," "A Dolls House" and "Hedda Gabler."

Catharine Countess shows excellent technique and great ability as the

daughter, Vivie Warren. Dodson Mitchell, E. J. Ratcliffe and John Findlay, as Sir George Crofts, Mr. Praed and the Rev. Samuel Gardner respectively, give able characterizations. But the nature of the play that is the most unpleasant, useless and inexcusable piece of dramatic mortar mixing that has appeared in a lengthy period.

Mrs. Warren, in the last act, when her daughter turns her away forever,

says, "Heaven help this world when everybody does right!"

She might well have added, "Heaven help the stage if another play like this is ever allowed on the boards!"

"The Spoilers," dramatization of the novel of the same name, by Rex E. Beach, has been produced at the New York theater.

The book, in somewhat florid lan-

guage, told a stirring story of mining life in Alaska. But the book was too emotionally hysterical to please, and the play is equally false. As one critic said, the programme announces that Mr. Beach wrote the book in the first flush of indignation at the things he saw in Alaska, and Mr. Beach failed to fill his rush.

The play is a rampant, raw and roaring melodrama, the three R's of many young exponents and playwrights. There

are the "hidden" or "mysterious" papers, the favorite resource of the "melodramatist," and guns and gun play break out at every turn.

Ralph Stuart plays Roy Glenister, the leading role. In his familiar dashing style, he is a "natural born stage hero," to use the current vernacular.

Evelyn Vaughan appears as the heroine, and Mr. Beach is that in trying to create a great big mascu-

line character he created a great big burlesque, thereby proving that a person can succeed and yet fail. Mr. Beach is a near Jack London, but not near enough to crowd Mr. London off the stage.

"Joan of Arc." The Sothern-Marlowe production of "Joan of Arc" at the Lyric theater has proved a widely discussed feature of the dramatic season. These players, it is said, produce the play in London during their forthcoming spring engagement.

Mr. Mackaye's version is in five acts and six scenes. He follows history more closely than any other dramatist in depicting the career of the Maid of Orleans.

Strangely enough, the two most notable dramas written with Joan as the central figure were the works of a German and an Englishman. Schiller's "Die Jungfrau d'Orleans" and Shakespeare's "Henry VI." None of the French versions of Joan's life have attained wide note on the stage. Curious it is that one of the most romantic of French characters thus has been neglected by the brilliant dramatic writers of her own native land.

FREDERICK TREGELLES.

TO ATTAIN GRACE

SIMPLE EXERCISES THAT WILL
AVAIL MUCH.

Symmetrical Curves Demanded by
Fashion's Whim—Good Offset to
Conditions Brought About by
Sedentary Living.

While the ideal figure in the world of art and fashion to-day is tall, slender and willowy, there is an utter absence of angles.

Merely because a woman has good height and is sparsely built does not place her in the fashionable class. Her figure must not only be of symmetrical proportions, but possess those long, graceful, sweeping curves which characterize the ideal figure.

Starting at the shoulders, the line passing over the bust must be full and round, tapering to the waist, then gracefully curving over the hips and sweeping away to the feet. The exquisite beauty of such figures is best appreciated when studying the lines from the back or profile.

The right kind of exercise and proper nourishment are the two mediums that will accomplish the ideal figure, both for the angular, undeveloped woman and her sister who is burdened with her too weighty avoirdupois.

Leanness is due to a lack of stimulation by properly diversified movements—exercise.

Of course, there are constitutionally slender and stout people, which is usually a question of inheritance, but not always. Yet both classes may work up to an ideal figure when each pursues a course according to its needs.

A very simple exercise is to rise on tip-toes, holding this position for a few seconds, then lowering the body again. Try this alternately, first with one foot, then with the other, and finally both. This exercise, if persisted in, will certainly do much for developing and rounding the calf muscles and is so easy that it may be performed almost anywhere.

Walking upstairs when properly done, is an excellent means of developing these muscles, so also is mountain climbing, but it will be some months before we are able to scale the giddy heights.

The tip-toe exercise makes the feet and ankles supple and corrects an awkwardness of gait that some women possess. Try it, taking deep inhalation before your open window in the morning.

Many women complain of that tense, tired feeling about the waist. Various causes may contribute to this condition. Women accustomed to sit or stand all day are the ones



likely to be so affected. Too much indoor living and lack of vigorous exercise will also do it. When the corsets are worn too tight and not enough freedom given to the muscles, a similar condition arises.

This weakness of the muscles is disastrous internally, the pelvic organs, the kidneys, liver and bowels all suffer in consequence.

A simple exercise to strengthen and develop the muscles is pictured in the sketch. Stand with feet close together, bend the body slowly forward without bending the knees, allowing the arms to hang loosely at the sides. After lowering the body as far as possible, raise it a few inches, then bend forward again. Try this exercise five times, then maintain correct standing position.

Remember to breathe deeply as you take these exercises, inhaling at the start and exhaling as you finish.

The Sheer Veil.

So large and varied an assortment of sheer veils as is shown this season has never before been known in the history of the dry goods trade, according to an old salesman who has seen the rise and fall of fashion for 40 years. There is endless variety in the wool and silk veils, the grenadines, marquisettes, etc. There are plain goods aplenty on the shelves, but striped, checked, cross-barred, plaided, dotted, flowered and figured pieces occupy the conspicuous positions. Satin stripes and crepe bars in one tone combinations are more prevalent than shadow effects among the expensive veils. Of lacquered figures there is no end. They sprinkle many of the materials that are also spotted with figures of contrasting tone.

Embroidered Parasols.

Completing the list of accessories to the toilette, for matron and maid alike, parasols embroidered, and made of the same material to match the frock, are to be the fad of the season.

The Rumble and Roar of Baseball Heard

"HURROO!" likewise "WOW!" and perchance "KI YI!"

In other words, the good old baseball apellist is in sight. Already the major league teams have encamped at their spring training quarters, the Charley Horses have been dragged out of their winter stalls, the "has-beens" are competing for jobs with the "never will be's," and the "real things" and the tentative lineups for the various big clubs have been announced.

The National league season begins April 11, 1907, the American league leather boppers open for business on the same day. The grand old warlike days when the two major organizations made their schedules as much of an aggravation to each other as possible have silently passed away like the

poet's Arabs who folded their tents. Now we see Big Chief Ban Johnson smoking the pipe of peace and doing the brotherly love stunt overtime. And why? Why, because of the wampum that sticketh closer to Ban than the people who draw down salaries from him.

There is a lot of glory, but no money, in baseball wars. Ban has had his share of the glory, and now he is getting more than his share of the money, if a \$15,000 salary counts for anything. Chief Clerk Pulliam of the National league hopes that some day he, too, will be a real ball president like Ban. He hopes that some day his bosses will let him run the office he holds.

Developing New Players.

Many of the leading ball teams are giving more attention than ever to the

matter of developing new players. They have profited from the lessons of the last few years taught by astute men who developed stellar young players from minor league recruits and from other promising material. Baseball craves young blood just as a camel back engine craves coal. Those managers who in the past relied chiefly on veterans have learned this lesson and never will forget it.

Probably the greatest gold mine unearthed in the person of a young player in recent years is Roy Evers, the wonderful second baseman of the Chicago Nationals. Evers was a Pennsylvania schoolboy a few years ago. Today, having barely attained his majority, he is almost the greatest second baseman in America. As thin as a young bed slat, he covers almost as much ground as Napoleon Bonaparte and is a reliable batsman. Evers' one hand stops over first and second bases, leaves the average circus or wild west performance "skinned to death."

Last year was the greatest of all ball years from a financial viewpoint, but the present one will surely eclipse even the sensational records in attendance, receipts and salaries scored by 1906.

A Sure Sign.

The various leagues and clubs evidence their belief in the promising nature of the outlook by the seemingly reckless manner in which they have expended advance money. It is safe to state that at the present moment more money by thousands has been spent by ball promoters than has been the case at this time in any other year. It has come to the point where baseball profits can be estimated in advance with almost the certainty attending bona fide commercial transactions. This speaks well for the stability and responsibility of the men who are backing the game in its larger scope.

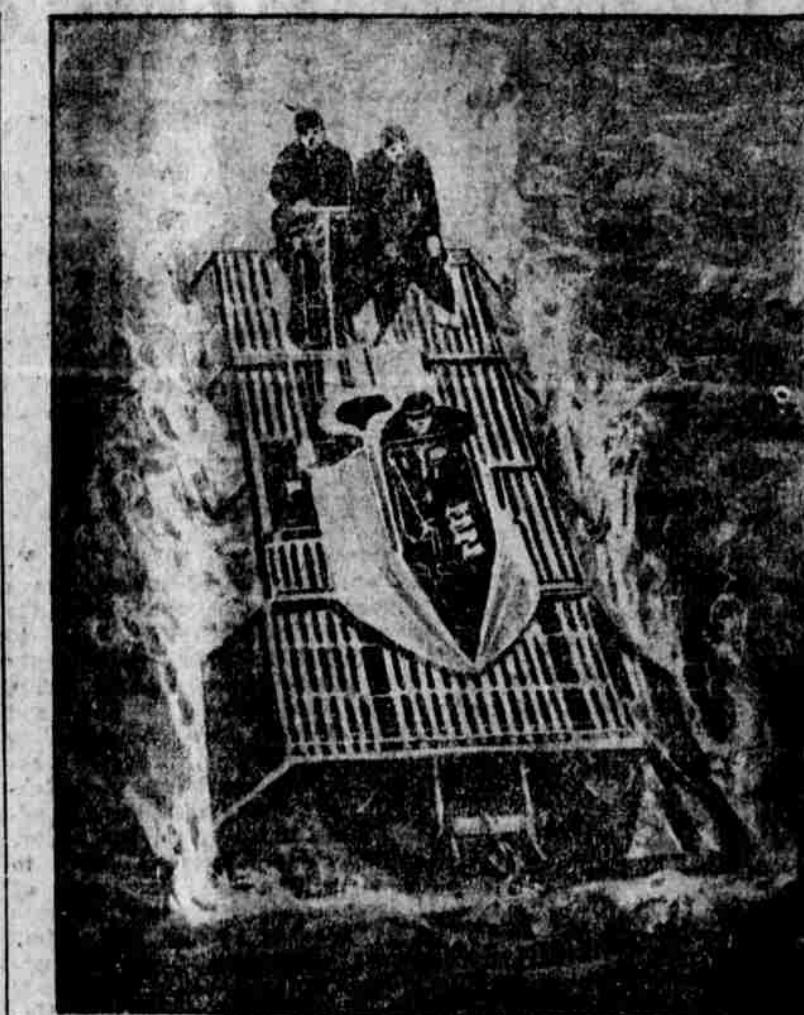
Chicago Teams in Luck.

The world's champion Chicago White Sox and the National league champion Chicago Cubs have both been unusually fortunate in holding the stellar men of their last year's teams. Of course they had to raise salaries in some instances to hold their chief mainstays, for whenever a team wins a championship rival club owners combine and seek to coax away able members of the team. This branch of baseball strategy has become very pronounced during the last three or four years in spite of the rules of the controlling bodies prohibiting such practices.

Troubles of the Minors.

Various of the minor league teams have joined in another vehement protest this year regarding the major league practice of holding promising minor league players away from the smaller teams until so late that these latter clubs cannot forecast their line-ups with any reasonable certainty. The major leaguers frequently turn candidates back on the minors when the minors had been led to believe that the men in question were to continue with the big clubs and had started preparations to fill the places of the players in question.

This mode of procedure inflicts evi-



UNIQUE FLAT MOTOR BOAT, BUILT ABROAD, THAT GOES
THIRTY-FOUR MILES AN HOUR.

dent hardships, but as in many other walks of life the underdog in baseball has to pay the penalty of being the underdog.

Value of Spring Training Trips.

Every year baseball scribes and club managers indulge in wordy altercations as to the value of southern training trips for teams. Some teams object to them because of the great expense involved. Others consider them as good investments because of the benefit it does the players.

Other teams so simply because other teams do and do not want to be looked down on. Whatever the intrinsic value of southern training trips is, they are still in wide vogue, as will be seen by the following table of major league outfits and the points chosen for their preliminary headquarters.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.
Chicago, City of Mexico; Detroit, Augusta, Ga.; Cleveland, Macon, Ga.; St. Louis, Martin, Tex.; New York, Atlanta, Ga.; Athletics, Dallas, Tex.; Boston, Little Rock, Ark.; Washington, Dallas, Tex.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.
Chicago, West Baden, Ind.; Pittsburgh, Hot Springs, Ark.; Cincinnati, Marion,

Tex.; St. Louis, Fort Worth, Tex.; New York, Los Angeles, Cal.; Brooklyn, Jacksonville, Fla.; Phillies, Savannah, Ga.; Boston, Thomasville, Ga.

BEN TAVIS.

TO FOSTER SCULLING.

Although the stewards of the Inter-collegiate Rowing association may have decided not to introduce centipede racing at the Poughkeepsie regatta this year, the stewards of the American Rowing association will foster this sort of racing to the limit of their ability at the fifth annual regatta, which is to be held on the Schuylkill river, Pennsylvania, May 2. As a matter of fact, the stewards of this association feel a sort of responsibility for this form of rowing, which they introduced to the American college world.

One of the features of the programme is to be the eight scull race in which college and club crews will compete against each other. Last year the University of Pennsylvania developed an eight scull crew, and if Coach Ward can find the men he will coach a similar crew this spring.

Coach Ward is a warm defender of this kind of rowing and thinks that it

teaches his men the elements of rowing better than any other sort of practice. Coach Rice of Columbia university also believes in centipede and octopod racing, and there is a possibility that Columbia may be represented by such a crew at the coming regatta.

The stewards are very much gratified over the assurances they have received for the various events. The junior college event will, of course, be the feature of the meeting, and it will bring together the strongest second eights in the east.

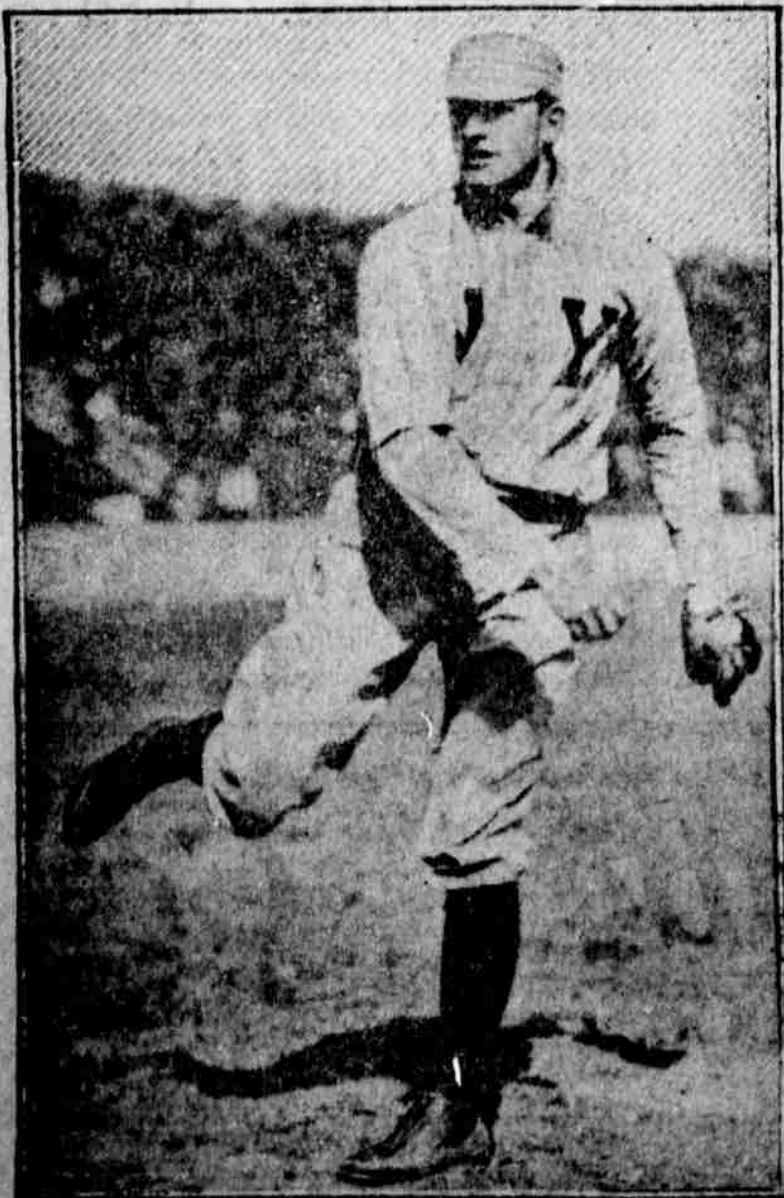
Not only will Harvard, Pennsylvania and Cornell be represented, but there is every reason to expect entries from Georgetown and Columbia for the first time in their aquatic history. Georgetown is especially enthusiastic this year and, with nearly all of last year's rowing squad intact, is preparing to win aquatic fame at the American regatta.

Then the response of the school crews has been equally gratifying. The schoolboys have come to look upon this regatta as the only one of the year in which they can compete. There are always two Philadelphia crews in this race, while both the Cascadilla school crew of Ithaca, N. Y., and the Stone school crew of Boston have competed at different times.

This year there is every likelihood that in addition to these four crews the Worcester (Mass.) academy and Georgetown Preparatory school eights will be sent to the regatta. Should all six crews actually show up for the race this event will rank next in importance to the junior college event itself.



CHICK STAHL, NEW CAPTAIN OF
BOSTON AMERICANS.



CHRISTY MATHEWSON, NEW YORK (N. L.) PITCHER, SAID
TO HAVE REGAINED OLD TIME FORM.